Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



Excerpt: Women and the Cult of Domesticity

Excerpt 1:

The right to love whom others scorn,
The right to comfort and to mourn,
The right to shed new joy on earth,
The right to feel the soul's high worth,
Such woman's rights a God will bless
And crown their champions with success.

(Godey's Ladies Book)

Excerpt 2:

"Cooked 360 dinners; Cooked 362 breakfasts; Swept & dusted sittingroom & kitchen 350 times; Filled lamps 362 times." Child also took care of sick friends and family members, made 83 items of clothing and assorted linens, preserved two pecks of fruits, mended clothes, and accomplished other "innumerable jobs too small to be mentioned."

(Lydia Maria Child- 1864)